

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT
THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, \$1.50
PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME XI.

ASHLAND, OHIO, JANUARY 30, 1889.

NUMBER 5.

Song of the Aged.

Fast fall the evening shadows
Upon my waning life;
Dim grows the falling twilight,
Soon ceases earthly strife.
Long days I here have wandered,
Long sleepless nights I've spent,
With hopes and cheering prospects
To reach a happy end.
Though often I've been weary,
And longed for quiet rest;
I did not dare to idle
While duties round me pressed.
I'm weary now and longing
To be where Jesus is,
To change this life of sorrow
For one of endless bliss.
Soon shall the Savior call me
To lay this burden down;
If then he's found me faithful
I shall obtain the crown.
—Herald of Truth.

Patience Inculeated.

Written by Polycarp, a disciple of St. John and burned at the stake after being a Christian 86 years.

I exhort you all, to yield obedience to the word of righteousness, and to exercise all patience, such as ye have seen before your eyes, not only in the case of the blessed, Ignatius, and Zosimus, and Rufus, but also in others among yourselves, and in Paul himself, and the rest of the apostles. This do in the assurance that all these have not run in vain, but in faith and righteousness, and that they are (now) in their due place in the presence of the Lord, with whom also they suffered. For they loved not this present world, but him who died for us, and for our sakes was raised again by God from the dead.

Home Again.

On Thursday, Dec. 20, 1888, we bade good by to our family and started for Ohio. Without any special incidents, only such as the ordinary traveler meets with. We arrived safely at Ankenytown, Knox Co., at noon on Saturday, Dec. 22nd. Went to the house of brother Joseph Leedy's, where we met our aged brother S. A. Leedy, of Cedar Co., Mo., by whose earnest solicitations more specially we were there. We were glad to meet this good old veteran, but sorry that his affliction (cancer) was making greater inroad into his vitals. We refer to his fleshly vitals, for spiritually the old brother seems to grow stronger as he nears his end on earth.

Same evening we commenced meeting in the school house at Ankenytown. Had a good attendance. On Sunday morning Dec. 23, the Brethren's substantial church house was opened for us, at which place we continued with past 'accord' every evening till New Year's evening. On Saturday, Dec. 29, the editor of the EVANGELIST put in his appearance, and became a member of our audience till Sunday evening. We felt much cheered by his presence and assistance. The little undeserved puff he gave us in the next number of the EVANGELIST, indicated to our mind that he enjoyed our preaching, but editors will blow you know, and we say let them do so as long as God is honored by it. We are earnest and zealous in our preaching, if we ourselves, that

God may be honored and men made better. No other motive would be pure. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 2, 3, and 4th, we visited with the brethren at North Liberty, six miles from Ankenytown. Enjoyed our visit very much. Who would not, with such kindhearted brethren as we found at North Liberty? On Saturday evening we returned to Ankenytown to fill appointments over Sunday. We preached our farewell sermon on Sunday evening, Jan. 6. Some may not have enjoyed our services, but we feel conscious that we did right, and are willing to have the matter referred to the decision of the great and impartial judge who will judge the quick and the dead at the great judgment day. We believe in a christianity that seeks to serve rather than to destroy. Did we not, we should have never changed our church relation. We thank all for undeserved kindness.

On Monday morning, Jan. 7, we bade farewell to brethren and friends at Ankenytown, and started in company with Elder S. A. Leedy for Hancock County. The parting between Bro. Leedy and relatives was very solemn. At this place our old brother was raised from boyhood. Everybody seemed to feel that this was the last time that he would be permitted to gaze upon the home of his childhood, as well as the last greeting on earth with many near and dear by the ties of nature and also of Christian fellowship. Don't worry brother, it will be better by and by. "We shall greet them at home, in the sweet by and by." No sighing and parting will be there.

At Fostoria we were met by Bro. Ezra Leedy and conveyed to his home near West Independence, at which place three appointments were to be filled by us. We filled two. Storm hindering our third meeting. In the church at West Independence the spirit of Christian unity seems to prevail. Our prayer is that no influence whatever may ever mar their peace. Our young and efficient brother Martin Shively presides here. With such a spirit of modesty as this young brother seems to possess, no church will ever be endangered by youthful ambition. At this place we had the pleasure of visiting at the home of our esteemed old Bro. John P. Ebersole. We were kindly treated not withstanding our church differences. Bro. Ebersole is 83 years old, but hale and hearty. His aged wife is some weeks older than he. Surely if there be happiness in length of days this aged couple have reason to be thankful. Bro. Ebersole is an honored bishop with the German Baptist brethren. May his and his companions last days be their best.

On Thursday morning Jan. 10, the roads being in a condition that a team could hardly travel, we were conveyed on foot to Fostoria, about six miles distance, by our kind-hearted brethren Leedy and Hazen. If there be

any joke in this, it rests on these brethren. Our valise was heavily loaded, but all the fatigue we experienced on account of it, was to see these two brethren wiggle along under its load, but it was their own fault, they wouldn't permit the owner to bear his own burdens, not even a few steps. Bro. Hazen carried it clear into the depot. My thanks to these brethren are warm yet.

On Friday morning we arrived at Sedalia, Missouri, where we parted from our old brother S. A. Leedy, who went on to Nevada. We laid over seven and one half hours, then took the train for Centerville, where we tarried over Sunday, filling our regular monthly appointments. If it be any comfort to the brethren in Ohio, we will inform them that we found the roads in Missouri about equal in mud to Ohio. In Kansas we found them somewhat better.

On Monday, Jan. 14, we left Centerville and came to Adrian, and commenced meeting on Tuesday evening in a country school house. The attendance was all we could expect considering the condition of the roads and the inclemency of the weather. Here we met for the first time, our Bro. W. G. McClintock of Jasper Co., Missouri, and he preached for us on Sunday. It was the third sermon we heard preached by a brethren preacher for about eight months. Is it any wonder it we should grow dull.

Yesterday, Jan. 21, we safely arrived at home. Found family well, for which we feel thankful to the giver of all good.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Montana, Kans., Jan. 22, 1889.

On the Life and Death of Elder Samuel C. Stump, of Falls City, Neb.

BY H. P. BRINKWORTH.

The writer became acquainted with Elder Stump on the Western plains of Kansas, in the year 1873, with Elder John Forney now of Abilene, Kan. He had journeyed into the Homestead Country some 200 miles. A few members then lived scattered in Jewell Co., Kan., and Webster Co., Neb. A Love feast was to be held at Salem, in said Co., at the residence of James M. Bailly. Journeying thither on the same conveyance with the Elder, we had an introduction which perhaps we never will forget. Being a member of the Missionary Baptist church from England, and still holding a valid certificate in an unorganized country as regards churches, etc., we felt quite unwilling to accept of any doctrine as taught and practiced by that church or body of people, till thorough investigation should prove he occupied safer grounds. The communion over, I felt a little afraid to meet the Elder on his own ground and evaded him. I was pleased on Sunday morning to hear him speak on the 'Trine action in Baptism.' He sought me out and asked, what have you to say? Reluctantly I replied: your prac-

tice is all right, but one assertion I can't see as you preach—that all others (single immersionists) never received the gift of the Holy Ghost, etc. Bro. Forney and Stump having made all things plain, I went with the Elder to his farm to harvest a crop of grain and learn more of this queer sect who said they had no creed, nothing but the Bible. This struck me as an important factor to wrench the foundation of and proselyte the holder on to any systematized faith in articles separate and apart from the Bible. Many were our discussions and many our desires to believe as each other, but the indomitable will of the one and obstinacy of the other found vantage ground enough that the attack was often renewed and neither knew enough to give in to the other. Finally the Elder prevailed and led me in the water to be baptized by the trine Baptism. Bro. Joseph H. Myers being the only member present, in Aug. 1874. Since that time we labored together in the ministry and often were his arguments convincing and converting as many can testify.

His power was of such a nature that although some became offended at his speech they could not resist, but would come and hear him preach the acceptable riches of God's grace. Fearless and uncompromising, he taught, he practiced, he labored both in body and soul for the welfare of Zion, and all at his own expense, to the shame, nevertheless, of those to whom he preached, as the laborer is worthy of his hire; and who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? This scripture I never heard him preach on, but occasionally he afterwards took some help at the risk of a trial before his brethren. When he was expelled from his choice of churches, he was already in the one he was thrown from, (scripturally speaking) for he said, we have no creed but the New Testament.

Now dear readers this should be the standard. It is enough, and as I held that Bible aloft in the National Council at Dayton, Ohio, the last time I met Bro. Stump, he was the first man to come across the benches to where I was and thank me for that declaration. I always opposed Minutes and when called for at Common Council meetings, I invariably decide the New Testament is mine and that alone and it is surprising how quickly oftentimes the opposite becomes a silent factor in that assembly.

Truly we are passing away one by one. Let us all seek to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified, and those who preach, emulate our beloved Elder for I feel assured he gained more than we have lost in that bright home beyond this vale of tears.

"My Church."

Jesus said "I will build my church." He has promised to complete the structure. It is so strange to hear Christians talk of failure. Shall the church be left half finished for man and

devils to point their mocking fingers at Christ, and cry "Ha! ha! ha! He began to build, but was not able to finish." Away with the God, dishonoring thought! He undertook the work of redemption, and though it led him from the cold manger to the bloody cross, he never rested till the triumphant cry "It is finished," rang through the universe. And shall he who finished creation, and finished redemption fail in his work of grace. Men act so foolishly. We see some poor weak, faithless mortal becoming very anxious about the church. Some self-appointed would be leader will become very anxious. The themes and subjects of the sermons does not suit him. The church paper is not what he would want it. He wants all the machinery of the church to work to suit him. He commands and complains and frets as if the whole structure were going to the dogs. He writes and talks as if some great disaster would overtake the church unless his advice is taken. More doctrinal preaching says he, the converts are not indoctrinated. We must feed the people on doctrine. And so the poor soul forgets that the Lord is at the wheel. Many of us are more fearful lest one single part of an ancient ritual or practice should be omitted, than that charity and toleration should be upheld and developed. If there is the slightest deviation from the old practice of the church, the alarm is sounded and many are the doleful prophecies made. Come Christians, let us remember Jesus has much to do with the building of the church. How heartily we ought to thank God that the prosperity of the church does not all depend upon man. If it did, it would have been a miserable failure long ago. Let us not forget the development of the great principles of charity and honesty in our anxiety about the telling of the mint, anise and cummin. We can learn many useful lessons by noticing how the disciples and pharisees became over anxious about the minor matters and allowed the weightier matters of the law to pass by unheeded.

The continual preaching of certain forms, even if they are gospel forms will make us good and solid Baptists or Presbyterians or Dunkards, but let us go beyond and reach out for the great principles that make us Christians. When the great stress is made upon the holding of certain views, and every effort is made to make us exactly one in practice then more time, labor and money is used up to accomplish this than in leading the soul into the glorious pasture fields of blessings where the spirit holds communion with God. Let all our efforts be centralized in developing hope, joy and love in the soul. The ordinances are merely means of grace to help us nearer to God. It is not the mere exact performance of these ordinances in accordance with the views of a few leaders that helps us heavenward. It is what the soul drinks in and enables the Christian to live and act better toward God and man. The church does not depend on our taking the advice and following the teachings of those who would be our leaders. Let us follow Jesus and him alone, and all will be well.

His promise is sure and steadfast, even if our denominations go into ruin and obscurity. The promise of the Lord is that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

EDWARD MASON.